UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,824	11/26/2003	James P. Griesmer	MSFT-2789/303543.1	9275

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WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP (MICROSOFT CORPORATION)	LEE, JINHEE J	
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2929 ARCH STREET	ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/723,824	GRIESMER, JAMES P.
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jinhee J. Lee	2174	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>04 October 2007</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-15 and 17-20</u> is/are pending in the application.

   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-15,17-20</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

     1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

     2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

     3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2.   Claims 1-4, 6-10, 13-15, 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being

anticipated by Gomes et al. (2005/0028107).

        Re claim 1, Gomes et al. discloses a method for indicating the values of

variables in a program under development, the method comprising:

        detecting the position of a pointer on the computer display associated with an

expression in the program under development (using tool tip to display for example);

        reading and evaluating the expression (see paragraph 0013 for example);

        displaying a first item value in a first item window on the computer display, the

item value associated with a variable in the expression, wherein an indication of at least

one sub-item value associated with the variable is present (specific format by right-

clicking for example); and

        responding to a pointer request for a first sub-item value by displaying a first

sub-item window on the computer display (see figure 6a for example and paragraph

0013) containing the first sub-item value, the first item value in the first item window is related to the first sub-item value in the first sub-item window (specifying the format by right-clicking on the expression, see paragraph 0013 for example), the first sub-item window being separate from the first item window on the computer display; the first item window and the first sub-item window displayed simultaneously (see paragraph 0013 for example).

Re claim 2, Gomes et al. discloses a method, wherein, the first item value remains visible when the first sub-item value is displayed, the displayed first sub-item value being accommodated to fit within a limited screen size by the use of at least one scroll control present in the first sub-item window (GUI, see paragraph 0013 for example).

Re claim 3, Gomes et al. discloses a method, further comprising: responding to a pointer request for a second sub-item value by displaying a second sub-item window containing second sub-item values (see paragraph 0013 for example).

Re claim 4, Gomes et al. discloses a method, wherein the pointer request for a second sub-item value dismisses the first sub-item window before displaying the second sub-item window (substitute format, see paragraph 0013 for example).

Re claim 6, Gomes et al. discloses a method, further comprising: displaying a menu of operations that can be conducted to alter one or more of format and value of a variable being viewed (see paragraph 0013 for example).

Re claim 7, Gomes et al. discloses a method, wherein the format of a variable being viewed comprises one of simple text, hexadecimal, binary, decimal, text, HTML, XML, and custom editor/viewer (ASCII for example).

Re claim 8, Gomes et al. discloses a method of displaying related data sub-items corresponding to a cursor-selected object displayed on a computer screen, the method comprising:

determining that a cursor is positioned to point at the cursor-selected object on the computer screen (displaying tool tip for example);

loading the cursor-selected object (see paragraph 0012 for example);

evaluating the cursor-selected object to determine if the cursor-selected object:

has a variable value (see paragraph 0014 and 0015 for example);

has related data sub-items (see paragraph 0013 for example); and

if the related data sub-items are capable of expansion into lower-tier sub-items (see paragraph 0013, format for example);

assembling values for the cursor-selected object and the related data sub-items (see paragraph 0013 for example); and

displaying on the computer screen the values of the cursor-selected object in a first display window and the related data sub-items along with an indication of a presence of the lower-tier sub-items in a second display window, the first and second display windows displayed simultaneously (see figure 6a and see paragraph 0013 for example).

Re claim 9, Gomes et al. discloses a method, wherein evaluating the cursor-selected object further comprises evaluating an expression associated with the cursor-selected object (see paragraph 0013 for example).

Re claim 10, Gomes et al. discloses a method, wherein displaying the values of the cursor-selected items and related sub-items further comprises displaying a variable associated with the cursor-selected object and values of the variables respectively (see paragraph 0013 for example).

Re claim 13, Gomes et al. discloses a system for displaying data tips related to a cursor-selected object displayed on a computer screen, the system comprising:

a computer screen to display a cursor-selected object and the data tips (see figure 6a for example);

a processor (inherent) for executing instructions corresponding to the method of: determining that a cursor is positioned to point at the cursor-selected object on the computer screen (see paragraph 0013 for example);

loading and evaluating the cursor-selected object to determine if the cursor-selected object:

has a variable value (see paragraph 0013 for example);

has related data sub-items; and

if the related data sub-items are capable of expansion into lower-tier sub-items;

assembling values for the cursor-selected object and the related data sub-items; and

displaying the values of the cursor-selected object in the data tips using a first window located adjacent to the cursor selected object, displaying the related data sub-items in a second window, the second window having an indication of the lower-tier sub items if the lower-tier sub-items exist, wherein the indication of the lower-tier sub-items is a symbol to indicate that lower-tier sub-items exist and can be selected for display in a third window simultaneously with the first and second window (see paragraph 0013 for example).

Re claim 14, Gomes et al. discloses a system, wherein evaluating the cursor-selected object further comprises evaluating an expression associated with the cursor-selected object (see paragraph 0013 for example).

Re claim 15, Gomes et al. discloses a system, wherein displaying the values of the cursor-selected object further comprises displaying a variable associated with the cursor-selected object and values of the variables respectively (see paragraph 0011 and 0012 for example).

Re claim 18, Gomes et al. discloses a machine-readable storage medium having instructions therein, executable by a machine to perform a method comprising:

determining that a cursor is positioned to point at the cursor-selected object on the computer screen (tool tip position for example);

loading the cursor-selected object (see paragraph 0013 for example);

evaluating the cursor-selected object to determine if the cursor-selected object:

has a variable value(see paragraph 0011 for example);

has related data sub-items (see paragraph 0013 for example); and

if the related data sub-items are capable of expansion into lower-tier sub-items;

assembling values for the cursor-selected object and the related data sub-items

(see paragraph 0012 for example); and

displaying on the computer screen the values of the cursor-selected object in a

first display window and the related data sub-items along with an indication of a

presence of the lower-tier sub-items in a second display window, the first and second

display windows displayed simultaneously (see paragraph 0013 for example).

Re claim 19, Gomes et al. discloses a method, displaying a menu of operations

to be performed on the first sub-item, the operations comprising editing the first sub-

item value (user may specify by selecting, see paragraph 0013 for example).

Re claim 20, Gomes et al. discloses a system, displaying a menu of operations

to be performed on the lower-tier sub-items, the operations comprising editing the first

sub-item value (user may specify by selecting, see paragraph 0013 for example).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   Claims 5,11,12,17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Gomes et al. in view of Microsoft Tiptoe Through (applicant provided NPL

document, Microsoft, Tiptoe Through the ToolTips With our All-Encompassing ToolTip

Programmer's Guide).

Re claims 5,11, 12 and 17, Gomes et al. substantially discloses the method and system as set forth in the above claims 1, 8, 8 and 13 respectively. Gomes et al. does not explicitly disclose that the first sub-item window and the second sub-item window are transparent and using symbol to indicate that lower-tier sub items exist and can be selected. However, Microsoft Tiptoe Through teaches of sub-item windows that are transparent and using symbol to indicate that lower-tier sub items exist and can be selected (see child data page 2 and page 15 for example). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the transparent windows and symbols indicating lower-tier sub item of Microsoft Tiptoe through on the system of Gomes et al. in order to provide a display that gives indication of all that is available on screen.

Response to Arguments

5.   Applicant's arguments filed 10/4/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Examiner disagrees with the statement that pre-dating the references can be accomplished at any time during the prosecution. Any evidence should be presented in a timely manner in response to objections and rejections.

In response to applicant's arguments that the prior art does not display a "related" sub-item, examiner disagrees. Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition, defines "related" as "connected by reason of an established or discoverable relation". The sub-item of prior art formats the item value, therefore, the claim limitation is met.

In response to applicant's arguments that the prior art does not display a "editing" of sub-item, examiner disagrees. Prior art teaches that the user may specify the format by selecting in paragraph 0013, which shows that the user is editing by specifying or changing the format.
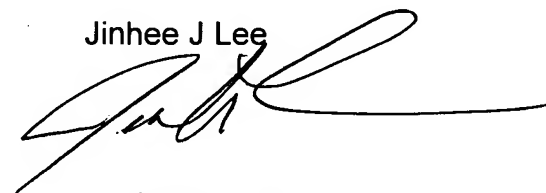
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jinhee J. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-1977. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F at 8:30AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on 571-272-2100 ext. 74. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jinhee J Lee

JINHEE J. LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER